Additional judicial benches of High Courts

†861. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by Government from state Governments regarding setting up of additional judicial benches of High Courts;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard, so far; and

(d) by when these benches are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The setting up of a Bench of a High Court away from its principal seat is considered on the receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has received complete proposals for setting up Benches of the Madras High Court and the Calcutta High Court respectively. Accordingly, it is proposed to establish a Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai and a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri, after infrastructural facilities like court buildings, accommodation for judges etc. are provided by the respective State Governments to the satisfaction of the High Court. Further, establishment of Benches of the High Courts involves Parliamentary legislation and, therefore, it is not feasible to indicate a time-frame in this regard.

Cases of power of Attorney pending for Registration

862. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of cases of Power of Attorney are pending for registration in Delhi;

(b) if so, their number as on 30th June, 2001 together with the period of pendency;

(c) whether Government are aware that rampant corruption at various levels is causing delay resulting in public harassment; and

(d) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the Government of NCT of Delhi and the Registrar, Delhi High Court and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Poor Conviction Rate

863. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "The disorder of law — poor conviction rates underline the failure of the system" which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 28th May, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to address the various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news-item regarding Government's policy to standardise the criminal justice system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) with a view to removing certain difficulties or lacunae felt in its working of the procedures in criminal cases, the Law Commission of India has comprehensively reviewed the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Code of Criminal Procdeure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 is pending consideration by Parliament. The Government has recently appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S. Malimath, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.